

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 NEA-10 DRC-01

NIC-01 /150 W

----- 112013

R 290945Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7918

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

ZNE/AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR PINT YO

SUBJ: RIBICIC CHARGES THAT INTERNATIONAL REACTIONARY FORCES

THREATEN YUGOSLAVIA

1. SUMMARY: MITJA RIBICIC, VICE PRESIDENT OF SFRY PRESIDENCY, SOUNDED OFF IN BELGRADE TV INTERVIEW NOVEMBER 27 ABOUT PRESSURES WHICH HE ALLEGED HAS BEEN MOUNTED AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA BY REACTIONARY FORCES AND ABOUT IMPORTANCE OF ROLE OF NONALIGNMENT IN GENERAL AND OF YUGOSLAVIA IN PARTICULAR FOR SOLUTION OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. END SUMMARY.

2. DISTINCTLY PARANOID NOTE CAME THROUGH SEVERAL TIMES, ESPECIALLY IN RIBICIC'S REFERENCES TO "INTERNATIONAL REACTIONARY" AND "IMPERIALIST" FORCES WHICH TOOK ADVANTAGE OF DETENT BETWEEN GREAT POWERS TO "ATTACK FREEDOM OF SMALL NATIONS" AND TO THREATEN YUGOSLAVIA. RIBICIC SAW COUNTRY IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE NOW TO HANDLE SUCH PRESSURES THAN BEFORE TITO HAD DEALT WITH CORATION, SERBIAN AND SLOVENIAN NATIONALISTS SEPARATISTS. YUGOSLAVIA STRONGER TOO BECAUSE NONALIGNMENT POLICY HAD BEEN CONFIRMED OVER EFFORTS OF ITS DOMESTIC OPPONENTS (HERE HE ALLUDED TO FORMER

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FONSEC TEPAVAC).

3. RIBICIC CREDITED YUGOSLAV NONALIGNED POLICY WITH HAVING FORE-
SEEN RENEWED FIGHTING IN ME AND HAVING WARNED OF DANGER WHICH
THAT WOULD POSE FOR REST OF WORLD. HE DESCRIBED OCTOBER 25 AS
"THAT CRITICAL NIGHT WHEN BOMBER WITH NUCLEAR WARHEADS WERE
CICLING THE EARTH". VICE PRESIDENT DISAGREED WITH THOSE
"PEOPLE IN OUR COUNTRY WHO SAY THAT WE ARE EXCESSIVELY ENGAGED
IN THIS ARAB CONFLICT (ASKING) WHY ARE WE ENGAGED TO SUCH AN
EXTENT, WHY ARE WE PROFFERING AID, WHY ARE WE SENDING WEAPONS,
WHY HAVE WE PERMITTED THE OPENING OF A CORRIDOR FOR AID TO OUR
ARAB FIRENDS AS IF WE WERE NO LONGER A
NONALIGNED COUNTRY?" HE ARGUED THAT IF PROGRESSIVE AND SOCIALIST
FORCES WERE NOT ABLE TO HALT AGGRESSION IN ME, THIS WOULD BE
DISASTROUS FOR REST OF WORLD AND IN CASE OF YUGOSLAVIA WOULD
EVEN MEAN PUTTING HALT TO "CERTAIN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IN
OUR COUNTRY" BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO INCREASE MILITARY SPENDING
AND DEAL WITH EMERGENCY SITUATION.

4. IN FACT, "REALISTIC POLITICAL FORCE OF NONALIGNMENT" HAD
BIT ROLE TO PLAY IN ME, RIBICIC CLAIMED. GREAT POWERS HAD
SHOWN THEY COULD NOT SOLVE EVERYTHING BETWEEN THEM. THEREFORE
YUGOSLAVIA WOULD SOON BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT FACTOR IN ME
SETTLEMENT, ABOUT WHICH YUGOSLAVIA HAD "CLEAREST IDEAS".

5. NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT RIBICIC MAY HAVE PREPARED HIS
REMARKS AHEAD OF TIME: IN ANY CASE, HE OBVIOUSLY ENJOYED BEING
CENTER STAGE WITH CHANCE RARELY GIVEN HIM FOR TALKING AT
CONSIDERABLE LENGTH TO
NATIONAL AUDIENCE ABOUT YUGOSLAVIA'S PLACE IN THE WORLD. HIS
COMMENTS MAY HAVE MORE IMPACT THAN THEY WOULD NORMALLY, COMING AT
TIME WHEN MEDIA OVERWHELMING YUGOSLAVS WITH DREARY REPORTAGE ON
COMING CELEBRATIONS AT JAJCE OF 30TH ANNIVERSARY SECOND
AVNOJ (PRINCIPAL CONSTITUTIONAL SESSION SETTING UP TITOST
YUGOSLAVIA). AND IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT DISPIE HIS
TITLE OF VICE PRESIDENT, RIBICIC HAS NOT NORMALLY BEEN A SPOKESMAN
FOR POLICIES OF YUGOSLAV LEADERSHIP AND PARTICULARLY NOT ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE SUSPECT THAT WHILE HE MAY REFLECT TOP LEADER-
SHIP'S VIEWS HE WAS
MUCH MORE EXTREME IN HIS PUBLIC TREATMENT OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN
POLICY THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY TITO OR FONSEC MINIC.
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6. WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO WHAT ME ROLE RIBICIC WAS FORECASTING
FOR YUGOSLAVIA, ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE A HINT IN TANJUG NOV-
EMBER 27 DESPATCH FROM NEW YORK WHICH DESCRIBES STRONG INTEREST
OF NONALIGNED SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ENSURING FULLEST
COMPLIANCE WITH CEASE-FIRE RESOLUTIONS AND FORECASTS THAT
MAJORITY IN COUNCIL WILL NOT BE SATISFIED WITH IDEA THAT SECRETARY
GENERAL COULD REPRESENT COUNCIL AS "OBSERVER" IN FUTURE PEACE

NEGOTIATIONS.

TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NONALIGNED NATIONS, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, PEACE, MILITARY CAPABILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELGRA05338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973116/aaaaaeft.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <07 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RIBICIC CHARGES THAT INTERNATIONAL REACTIONARY FORCES THREATEN YUGOSLAVIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, YO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005